

A Rosary for Priests

Joyful Mysteries

THE ANNUNCIATION

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary, a virgin, that she will become the Mother of God, Word made Flesh. For all centuries to come, Jesus will become flesh in the Holy Eucharist to nourish us in a most intimate union with Him.

We pray for all priests who daily, though the words of the consecration at Mass, and through Holy Communion, bring us the Body and Blood of Christ.

We pray for all future priests now being formed in the wombs of their mothers, that they may be safe from physical and spiritual harm, and come to Ordination as God intends.

We pray for all future generations of priests.

We pray also that priests may treasure the gift of celibacy.

THE VISITATION

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who recognizes Mary as the living tabernacle for their Divine Lord.

We pray especially for priests who bring Holy Communion to the sick, the shut-ins, and Viaticum to the dying.

We pray for all the priests who minister to the sick in other ways, counsel, comfort and console them.

THE NATIVITY OF JESUS

Jesus is born in Bethlehem. The angels announce His birth; kings and shepherds come to adore Him.

We pray that all seminarians grow in knowledge and love of God to become holy priests.

We pray especially for those who will be ordained soon, that they may remain faithful all their lives to the sublime privilege of being “other Christs” among us.

We pray that everyone will come to value the Eucharistic Feast and the Priesthood as among God's greatest gifts to us.

We pray that every priest will consider himself a member of the Holy Family, a true son of Mary and Joseph, and a brother-priest of Jesus, the great High Priest.

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Mary and Joseph, in obedience to the Law, bring Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God. Simeon expresses his gratitude to God for revealing the Messiah to him before he dies.

We thank God for all priests who, like Simeon, have given us decades of faithful service. We pray that they may be rewarded for their generosity and self-sacrifice.

We pray also for all priests whose hearts are pierced by loneliness, depression and rejection.

FINDING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Jesus is found among the teachers in the temple; He returns home and is obedient to Mary and Joseph.

We pray that priests will always be found going about their Father's business, and will be obedient to the teaching magisterium of the Church, our Holy Father and the bishops in communion with him.

We pray for all young priests that the love and dedication they experience in the first years of their priesthood may increase with time.

We pray for all priests who teach the Faith to children and adults.

Sorrowful Mysteries

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

The Apostles fall asleep; Jesus sweats blood at the thought of His coming passion and death; angels come to comfort Him.

We pray that all priests who are suffering and on the way to Calvary may be comforted by God's presence; those

who have betrayed or denied the Faith through weakness may repent and return to the warmth of God's love.

We pray that all priests may live only to do our Father's will, as Jesus always did.

JESUS IS SCOURGED

Jesus is cruelly scourged and beaten by the soldiers.

We pray for priests who are persecuted, physically or mentally abused; those who are imprisoned or prevented from offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or receiving Holy Communion.

We pray for those priests living under Communist oppression.

JESUS IS CROWNED WITH THORNS

Jesus is mocked as king and His precious Head is cruelly pierced by thorns.

We pray for priests who suffer for defending authentic Catholic doctrine.

We pray that all Bishops will uphold the true teachings of the Catholic Church and resist temptations to compromise doctrine in the face of cultural and social pressures.

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

Bruised, bleeding, and exhausted Jesus is forced to drag Himself and His cross up the hill of Calvary.

We pray for all priests with heavy crosses; those who are weak, lonely, or have fallen from God's grace in some way.

We pray for the Holy Father, who perhaps has the heaviest of crosses: the widespread persecution of the Church from within and without.

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Jesus sheds His last drops of Precious Blood to redeem us from sin and death.

We pray for all priests who are in their last agony and those who will die today.

We pray for those who thirst for the salvation of souls.

We pray that the crucifixion of their wills may accomplish God's designs for the salvation of the whole world.

We pray that priests may take Mary into their hearts, as St. John the Apostle, one of the first priests, took Mary into his home.

Glorious Mysteries

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus arises from the dead and appears to the Apostles.

At times, priests may suffer from depression and despair that plague them when they see so little from their labors.

We pray that priests will remember: the Crucifixion is followed by the Resurrection; darkness is always followed by Light.

We pray that all priests may share the joy of the Risen Christ.

THE ASCENSION

Jesus instructs His Apostles and returns to His Father in Heaven.

We pray that priests may carry out Jesus' instructions to evangelize the whole world, instructing and baptizing countless souls.

We pray for missionaries who live lives of utter poverty and deprivation to bring the Gospel to all the people.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

The Holy Ghost comes down upon the Apostles, who are gathered with Mary.

We pray that priests may be open to the graces of the Holy Ghost to strengthen them for the task of bringing souls to God and God to souls.

We pray that they may be on fire to convert the most hardened sinners, and to bring God's love to the whole world.

THE ASSUMPTION

Mary is taken, body and soul, to Heaven. While she was on earth, she loved and prayed for the Apostles, the first priests.

We pray that priests will be devoted to Mary and find in her the love and comfort of a mother, the most powerful intercession of our greatest Saint, and the surest refuge against Satan and his cohorts who seek destruction of priests and the priesthood.

THE CORONATION

Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven and earth; she is rewarded for her faithfulness to God.

We pray that Mary, Queen of the Clergy, will be their model of faith and joy, and constant guide until they reach Heaven where a crown, jeweled with the many souls entrusted to them on the day of Ordination, will be their reward for the faithful and loving service.

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of Thy priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

O Loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. AMEN.

The late John J. Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis